

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 2767 - SB 3342

March 5, 2012

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) to allow anyone possessing a Tennessee hunting license to use shooting ranges located within the Agency's wildlife management areas during normal business hours. Authorizes the TWRA to charge a reasonable fee for persons or organizations using the shooting ranges and may require users to make improvements to the range.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Revenue - \$ 114,000/Recurring/Wildlife Resources Fund

Increase State Expenditures - \$57,400 /One-Time/Wildlife Resources Fund

\$178,300 /Recurring/Wildlife Resources Fund

Assumptions:

- TWRA currently has 16 ranges that will be affected by this legislation.
- According to the TWRA, this bill will require all ranges to be open at least 40 hours per week.
- Nine of the sixteen ranges are primitive and remote berm ranges which are currently open at least forty hours a week. These facilities are completely staffed by volunteer personnel, and have light visitation by the public.
- These nine ranges will not require any additional funding or full-time staff to comply with the provisions of this legislation.
- Seven of the sixteen are larger multiple shooting venue ranges with limited hours of operation, and are partially operated by volunteer personnel. These seven ranges are frequently visited during the limited hours of operation currently in place.
- Currently, the most used facility is the Stones River Hunter Education Center. Weekly, it operates approximately 16 hours with an average of 325 visitors. This facility operates using 6 to 7 volunteer personnel as well as one full-time wildlife manager and one full-time wildlife technician.
- According to the TWRA, additional full-time staff will be required to accommodate the increase in visitors and operating hours at the other facilities.
- The hiring of three wildlife technicians will result in a recurring increase to state expenditures of \$85,770 [(\$20,164 salary + \$8,426 benefits) x 3].
- According to information provided by the TWRA, two additional wildlife managers will also be required resulting in a recurring increase to state expenditures of \$92,494 [(\$32,569 salary + \$13,678 benefits) x 2].

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- The total recurring increase to state expenditures for additional staff is estimated to be \$178,264 (\$85,770 + \$92,494).
- The hiring of two wildlife managers will result in a one-time increase to state expenditures of \$57,392 for purchasing of vehicles, law enforcement training academy tuition, and the cost of general law enforcement equipment. [(\$21,196 vehicle + \$3,000 tuition + \$4,500 equipment) x 2]
- The provisions of this bill authorize the TWRA to charge a reasonable fee for the use of the ranges by the public.
- Currently TWRA charges \$5.50 per adult for two hours of facility usage. The current fee is not anticipated to be raised as a result of this legislation.
- It is estimated the increased visitation and hours of operation will result in a recurring increase to state revenues of \$114,000 [(\$25,000 annual increase x 3 largest facilities) + (\$3,000 annual increase x 13 small to medium facilities)].

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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